DERBY:
all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs
NOVEMBER 2026

LATEST NEWS

A 'Bonnie" story for a city celebration 50 years of city status in 2027
Derby was granted formal city status by Queen Elizabeth II on 7 June 1977 as part of her Silver Jubilee celebrations, with the official Letters Patent being presented on 28 July of the same year. Thousands crowded onto the Market Place and Corporation Street to witness the event. The Gold Anniversary of that occasion is being marked in Derby 2027, which also marks 100 years of All Saints gaining its cathedral status. Urban myth has it that a reigning monarch had declared Derby would never be made a city due to Bonnie Prince Charlie's brief tenure there in 1746 during the 18th century rebellion! This gained further traction when All Saints became a cathedral in 1927, and the expected city status failed to materialise for another half century. Then, in 1977, as part of the Silver Jubilee, the Home Office identified nine candidates for city status - and Derby was selected as the largest non-metropolitan district not already designated a city, with a reminder that, in the UK, city status is not linked to a cathedral: it is a formal honour granted strictly by the reigning monarch through letters patent. While it has *never* been standard practice for historic monarchs to "ban" towns from achieving city status, the historic link with Bonnie Prince Charlie will no doubt be recalled during the 50 anniversary celebrations next year.

Set-jetting into Derby with the Stuntnuts
Two of the biggest action stars in the world are teaming up with one of the most acclaimed spy directors of all-time for an intriguing new project which, incredibly, all has close links with Derby... A news report has confirmed that Chris Hemsworth and Sam Rockwell will be starring in *Stuntnuts* - the first film in a four-part series from Matthew Vaughn, who will produce all four films in the series. Hemsworth and Rockwell will both play themselves in an ensemble full of stunt artists in *Stuntnuts: The Movie*. Derby's own, legendary stunt coordinator Damien Walters will direct all four films in the series - bringing a touch of Hollywood glamour to his home city, which is featured in the movie, and where he has just opened a multi-million stunt and gymnasium facility called The Foundry. The movie is loosely based on the true story of how - against all odds - Walters was able to get these premises up and running in Derby.

Turning the leaves of a book this Autumn, in Derby
Fegal Keane, Sir Jeremy Hunt, Sathnam Sanghera - and a Cream Tea with Wendy Holden, author of *The Queen's Painter* - are just some of the household names and special experiences that have been lined-up for the Derby Book Festival from 12 to 15 November. Already growing in status and stature, the Autumn Edition of the city's book festival will take it all up another notch thanks to the packed programme of events that is available to 'all the family'. And it all kicks off this year on the previous weekend with a Book & Craft Market that will be held on Saturday 7 November in Derby Market Hall from 10.30 to 4pm. This event is free to the public. Full details of the Autumn Book Festival can be found here.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Help illuminate a dark November evening
14 November, 2026
This is a chance to light up the November night, at a free community lantern walk through the trees at Derby Arboretum. Participants are being asked to bring their own lantern or carry one provided, and join-in with a magical evening of Luminate in the Park. The evening will also feature fire performers, barbershop singing, warming soup and hot drinks.

You are invited to The Crimson Ball

21 November, 2026

Mythic Echoes is set to present As Night Falls - The Crimson Ball: a vampire live-roleplay, which will combine immersive storytelling and interactive theatre in the gothic setting of Derby Museum's former library, The Wardwick. Akin to live theatre, except there is no audience and everyone involved is part of the cast, each of the participants dress a their character and the outcome of the story is determined by their actions. There is no script, but a story will be told by the participants through their characters' actions.

A Peter Rabbit and Santa Experience in Derby

26 November to 24 December, 2026

City centre shopping mall, Derbion, is bringing a new tale of Peter Rabbit and Friends to Derby this winter. Families will be able to enter Peter Rabbit's burrow, to be welcomed by Mrs Rabbit who will tell the tale of Peter's lost Christmas presents. The festive fun continues in the snowy forest, where families can join Peter Rabbit and friends to decorate gingerbread biscuits for the Christmas feast, before heading off to meet with Santa himself.

Sadler Gate brings some seasonal joy to the city centre

26 November, 2026

Already firmly established as one of the winter highlights in Derby city centre, the annual Sadler Gate Night Market brings late-night shopping at a wide range of independent shops and businesses to the city centre. Filled with festive treats, delicious food and drink, and plenty of street-entertainment, it will feature over 50 artisan businesses, the in Sadler Gate, The Strand Arcade and beyond...

Say "Skål" in Derby's Nordic Bar

28 November to 31 December

Friends, families and visitors to Derby can plan a festive get-together in a seasonal, city centre Nordic Bar. Wooden benches, festive foliage, and twinkling lights will welcome everyone in for a seat by the firepit. Hot and cold drinks, from cocktails to mocktails and mulled wine to hot chocolate, will be available right the way through to New Year's Eve.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

Derby's "Season of Light"

Derby Season of Light (DSOL) returns for 2026. Now in its sixth year, the festival runs through to December dazzling diversity, creativity and the community to the city centre for a wide range of special events under the theme of "light". The flagship event is Derby Lantern Parade on Saturday 28 November

Lara Croft in Derby

Created in Derby, Lara Croft conquered the world, inspired one of gaming's biggest franchises and earned her own road in the city: Lara Croft Way. To celebrate 30 years of Lara Croft and the legacy of the Tomb Raider, Derby will host a city-wide programme of exhibitions and events. Highlights include a recreated Croft Manor experience at Pickford's House and the return of TR30 at Derby Quad featuring special guests and fan activities.

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For further details, visit:
https://www.visitderby.co.uk.

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